

NIH Guidelines - Biosafety Level 2 (BL2)

These questions are based on the Biosafety Level 2 (BL2) section of the *NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant DNA Molecules*, March 1996 edition, Appendix G-I and G-II-B.

Please circle the response that best describes the laboratory in which work with select agents will be carried out.

N.A. = not applicable. If you mark "N.A.", please provide a brief explanation below that item or on a separate page.

.

Appendix G-I. Standard Practices and Training

Yes, No, N.A. The first principle of containment is strict adherence to good microbiological practices. Consequently, all personnel directly or indirectly involved in experiments using recombinant DNA shall receive adequate instruction. At a minimum, these instructions include training in aseptic techniques and in the biology of the organisms used in the experiments so that the potential biohazards can be understood and appreciated.

Yes, No, N.A. Any research group working with agents that are known or potential biohazards shall have an emergency plan that describes the procedures to be followed if an accident contaminates personnel or the environment. The Principal Investigator shall ensure that everyone in the laboratory is familiar with both the potential hazards of the work and the emergency plan. If a research group is working with a known pathogen for which there is an effective vaccine, the vaccine should be made available to all workers. Serological monitoring, when clearly appropriate, will be provided.

Appendix G-II-B-1. Standard Microbiological Practices (BL2)

Yes, No, N.A. Appendix G-II-B-1-a. Access to the laboratory is limited or restricted by the Principal Investigator when work with organisms containing recombinant DNA molecules is in progress.

Yes, No, N.A. Appendix G-II-B-1-b. Work surfaces are decontaminated at least once a day and after any spill of viable material.

Yes, No, N.A. Appendix G-II-B-1-c. All contaminated liquid or solid wastes are decontaminated before disposal.

Yes, No, N.A. Appendix G-II-B-1-d. Mechanical pipetting devices are used; mouth pipetting is prohibited.

Yes, No, N.A. Appendix G-II-B-1-e. Eating, drinking, smoking, and applying cosmetics are not permitted in the work area. Food may be stored in cabinets or refrigerators designated and used for this purpose only.

Yes, No, N.A. Appendix G-II-B-1-f. Persons wash their hands: (i) after handling materials involving organisms containing recombinant DNA molecules and animals, and (ii) when exiting the laboratory.

Yes, No, N.A. Appendix G-II-B-1-g. All procedures are performed carefully to minimize the creation of aerosols.

Yes, No, N.A. Appendix G-II-B-1-h. Experiments of lesser biohazard potential can be conducted concurrently in carefully demarcated areas of the same laboratory.

Appendix G-II-B-2. Special Practices (BL2)

- Yes, No, N.A. Appendix G-II-B-2-a. Contaminated materials that are to be decontaminated at a site away from the laboratory are placed in a durable leak-proof container which is closed before being removed from the laboratory.
- Yes, No, N.A. Appendix G-II-B-2-b. The Principal Investigator limits access to the laboratory. The Principal Investigator has the final responsibility for assessing each circumstance and determining who may enter or work in the laboratory.
- Yes, No, N.A. Appendix G-II-B-2-c. The Principal Investigator establishes policies and procedures whereby only persons who have been advised of the potential hazard and meet any specific entry requirements (e.g., immunization) may enter the laboratory or animal rooms.
- Yes, No, N.A. Appendix G-II-B-2-d. When the organisms containing recombinant DNA molecules in use in the laboratory require special provisions for entry (e.g., vaccination), a hazard warning sign incorporating the universal biosafety symbol is posted on the access door to the laboratory work area. The hazard warning sign identifies the agent, lists the name and telephone number of the Principal Investigator or other responsible person(s), and indicates the special requirement(s) for entering the laboratory.
- Yes, No, N.A. Appendix G-II-B-2-e. An insect and rodent control program is in effect.
- Yes, No, N.A. Appendix G-II-B-2-f. Laboratory coats, gowns, smocks, or uniforms are worn while in the laboratory. Before exiting the laboratory for non-laboratory areas (e.g., cafeteria, library, administrative offices), this protective clothing is removed and left in the laboratory or covered with a clean coat not used in the laboratory.
- Yes, No, N.A. Appendix G-II-B-2-g. Animals not involved in the work being performed are not permitted in the laboratory.
- Yes, No, N.A. Appendix G-II-B-2-h. Special care is taken to avoid skin contamination with organisms containing recombinant DNA molecules; gloves should be worn when handling experimental animals and when skin contact with the agent is unavoidable.
- Yes, No, N.A. Appendix G-II-B-2-i. All wastes from laboratories and animal rooms are appropriately decontaminated before disposal.
- Yes, No, N.A. Appendix G-II-B-2-j. Hypodermic needles and syringes are used only for parenteral injection and aspiration of fluids from laboratory animals and diaphragm bottles. Only needle-locking syringes or disposable syringe-needle units (i.e., needle is integral to the syringe) are used for the injection or aspiration of fluids containing organisms that contain recombinant DNA molecules. Extreme caution should be used when handling needles and syringes to avoid autoinoculation and the generation of aerosols during use and disposal. Needles should not be bent, sheared, replaced in the needle sheath or guard, or removed from the syringe following use. The needle and syringe should be promptly placed in a puncture-resistant container and decontaminated, preferably autoclaved, before discard or reuse.
- Yes, No, N.A. Appendix G-II-B-2-k. Spills and accidents which result in overt exposures to organisms containing recombinant DNA molecules are immediately reported to the Institutional Biosafety Committee and NIH/ORDA. Reports to NIH/ORDA shall be sent to the Office of Recombinant DNA Activities, National Institutes of Health/MSB 7010, 6000 Executive Boulevard, Suite 302, Bethesda, Maryland 20892-7010, (301) 496-9838. Medical evaluation, surveillance, and treatment are provided as appropriate and written records are maintained.
- Yes, No, N.A. Appendix G-II-B-2-l. When appropriate, considering the agent(s) handled, baseline serum samples for laboratory and other at-risk personnel are collected and stored. Additional serum specimens may be collected periodically depending on the agents handled or the function of the facility.
- Yes, No, N.A. Appendix G-II-B-2-m. A biosafety manual is prepared or adopted. Personnel are advised of special hazards and are required to read and follow instructions on practices and procedures.

Appendix G-II-B-3. Containment Equipment (BL2)

Appendix G-II-B-3-a. Biological safety cabinets (Class I or II) or other appropriate personal protective or physical containment devices are used whenever:

- Yes, No, N.A. Appendix G-II-B-3-a(1). Procedures with a high potential for creating aerosols are conducted.. These may include centrifuging, grinding, blending, vigorous shaking or mixing, sonic disruption, opening containers of materials whose internal pressures may be different from ambient pressures, intranasal inoculation of animals, and harvesting infected tissues from animals or eggs.
- Yes, No, N.A. Appendix G-II-B-3-a(2). High concentrations or large volumes of organisms containing recombinant DNA molecules are used. Such materials may be centrifuged in the open laboratory if sealed beads or centrifuge safety cups are used and if they are opened only in a biological safety cabinet.

Appendix G-II-B-4. Laboratory Facilities (BL2)

- Yes, No, N.A. Appendix G-II-B-4-a. The laboratory is designed so that it can be easily cleaned.
- Yes, No, N.A. Appendix G-II-B-4-b. Bench tops are impervious to water and resistant to acids, alkalis, organic solvents, and moderate heat.
- Yes, No, N.A. Appendix G-II-B-4-c. Laboratory furniture is sturdy and spaces between benches, cabinets, and equipment are accessible for cleaning.
- Yes, No, N.A. Appendix G-II-B-4-d. Each laboratory contains a sink for hand washing.
- Yes, No, N.A. Appendix G-II-B-4-e. If the laboratory has windows that open, they are fitted with fly screens.
- Yes, No, N.A. Appendix G-II-B-4-f. An autoclave for decontaminating laboratory wastes is available.